

HABS  
PA  
7-WILL.V,  
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ROYER HOUSE  
Springfield Furnace  
State Hwy 866, .25 miles North  
of Twp. Road 392  
Williamsburg Vicinity  
Blair County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6066

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

## ROYER HOUSE

HABS No. PA-6066

Location: On PA 866 .25 miles north of its intersection with Twp. Road 392 Williamsburg (vic.), Blair County Pennsylvania

UTM: 17 E.731400 N.4478200  
Quad: Frankstown  
Scale: 1:24,000

Date of Construction: ca. 1810, ca. 1830.

Present Owner: Blair County Historical Society.

Present Use: Historical House Exhibits.

Significance: Built by the Royer family about 1810; John Royer settled in this area around 1805. Along with his brother Daniel, he established an iron furnace one-quarter mile to the south, on Piney Creek. The house remained in the Royer family for a number of generations.

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons, 1989

Project Information: The results of the study of Cambria County were published in 1990: Fitzsimons, Gray, editor, Blair County and Cambria County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (Washington, D.C.: America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP) and HABS/HAER, National Park Service). The contents of the publication were transmitted to the Library of Congress as individual reports. Research notes, field photos and copies of historic photos collected during the project were transmitted to the AIHP Collection, Special Collections, Stapleton Library, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA 15705.

## History

The monumentality of the residence of ironmaster Elias Baker House, built in the mid 1840s north of Hollidaysburg, contrasts dramatically with the residences of other early 1800s ironmasters in Blair County. The Royer House, constructed about three decades before Baker's residence, is a two-and-one-half-story building with random-coursed stone walls. A smaller one-and-one-half-story wood-frame structure adjoins the stone house and contains a gable roof. It may have served as the original Royer residence. As with many other ironmasters' houses built in the early nineteenth century, the owners erected a number of additions to the original stone building. A two-story rear addition, also of stone construction, contains a two-story wooden porch extending along its south facade. The original main entrance appears to have been off center, its present symmetry was not achieved until two bays were added to the north. A second chimney, built near the gable end opposite the original chimney, served to heat this addition and aided the appearance of the building's uniformity. The stone house is not without ornament; its entrance features a few classical elements including two short wooden columns and recessed paneled sidelights flanking a multi-paneled wooden door.

Near the Royer house the family operated the cold-blast charcoal-fired Springfield Furnace on Piney Creek, constructed by Daniel and John Royer in 1815. The Royers also established Cove Forge and Franklin Forge, and obtained hematite ore from the Springfield mine. According to a local account, the Royer family produced iron stoves. Springfield Furnace remained in blast until the 1880s.

## Source:

Harry A McGraw and David M. Adams, "The Iron Industry in Blair County," in George Wolf (ed.), Blair County's First Hundred Years: 1846-1946 (Hollidaysburg: Blair County Historical Society, 1945), 388-90.